

CHILD PROTECTION — GROUP HOMES

751. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection:

I refer to group homes run by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and ask:

- (a) Where is each group home located in Western Australia;
- (b) How many beds were available at each facility at:
 - (i) 1 January 2022; and
 - (ii) 1 January 2023;
- (c) What was the occupancy rate for each facility in:
 - (i) 2022; and
 - (ii) 2023 to date;
- (d) How many staff are located at each group home; and
- (e) What is the breakdown of staff located at each home by the following:
 - (i) full-time;
 - (ii) part time; and
 - (iii) casual?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

The Department of Communities (Communities) advise:

- (a) As at 18 May 2023, there are 23 Communities run residential care group homes located across Western Australia; with 14 across the Perth Metropolitan, and 9 in regional Western Australia. The regional group homes run by Communities are located in the Goldfields, the Kimberley, the Midwest Gascoyne, the Pilbara, and the South-West.

As part of the WA Labor Government out-of-home care reforms, \$13.5 million has been allocated to acquire 19 new properties to continue to support children and young people in out of home care in existing or temporary care arrangements.
- (b) As at 1 January 2022, the number of beds available in each region was as follows; 6 in the Goldfields, 16 in the Kimberley, 11 in the Midwest Gascoyne, 56 in the Perth Metropolitan, 10 in the Pilbara, and 5 in the South West.

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- (c) Communities' endeavours to make placement decisions for children that are trauma-informed, culturally safe, in the best interests of children and are focused on meeting their safety and wellbeing needs. The number of children placed in a residential care home each night varies due to a number of considerations, therefore, average occupancy data over a period of time cannot be provided.
- (d)–(e) The number of full time, part time and casual staff is provided as at 28 February 2023.

In the Perth Metropolitan area, there were 251 residential care staff; 140 full time, 13 part-time, and 98 casual staff.

In the Goldfields there were 28 staff; 13 full time and 15 casual.

In the Kimberley there were 64 staff; 18 full time, 5 part-time and 41 casual.

In the Midwest Gascoyne there were 38 staff; 26 full time, 2 part-time, and 10 casual.

In the Pilbara there were 40 staff; 14 full time, 4 part-time and 22 casual.

In the South West there were 25 staff; 8 full time, 1 part time, 16 casual.